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## Epidemiological aspects of adult digestive cancers at the CNHU-HKM of Cotonou (Benin) from 2011 to 2015

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Cancers are a major public health problem in the world. Digestive cancers are growing in Benin. Most of the affected individuals arrive at a late stage of life-threatening stage. The general objective was to describe the epidemiological aspects of adult gastrointestinal cancers at the CNHU-HKM in Cotonou. This was a retrospective descriptive study that took place over a five-year period from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2015, in four departments of the CNHU-HKM in Cotonou. We had 226 cases of digestive cancers on the 5551 admissions, a proportion of 4.1%. The predominance was male with a sex ratio of 2:4; the mean age was 53.60 years with extremes of 17 years and 88 years. Most patients lived in urban areas. The identified risk factors were B and C viral hepatitis, alcoholism and smoking. Liver

cancer (47.8%) was the most common gastrointestinal cancer followed by pancreatic cancer (18.1%). Only 8% of our patients received palliative chemotherapy and 18.6% received surgical treatment. Hospital mortality was 67.7% and one-year survival was 39.9%, two years 9.2%, and five years 2%. The incidence of digestive cancers in general and HCC is growing in our country. The fight against this scourge must include vaccination against hepatitis B, public awareness of risk factors and early consultation and access to curative care for patients. Indeed, some of our patients are informing themselves about the standards of treatment and therapeutic innovations they could benefit from and that we are often unable to offer them.

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